



2

KNIGHT TERRORS: THE FLASH



DAWN OF
DC

PAKNADEL - BAYLISS - DERENICK - MONTI

13+
TEEN

DISCOVER HOW THE DARK KNIGHT MET THE MAN OF STEEL!

BATMAN • SUPERMAN
**WORLD'S
FINEST** #18



© & TM DC



AUGUST

WRITTEN BY
MARK WAID

ART BY
TRAVIS MOORE

MAIN COVER BY DAN MORA

ATTEMPT 2



MY FRIEND HAL
AND I BONDED
QUICKLY WHEN THE
LEAGUE STARTED.

ON A TEAM OF ALIENS
AND DEMIGODS, WE
WERE PRETTY MUCH THE
ONLY REGULAR GUYS.

WE UNDERSTOOD
EACH OTHER.

ATTEMPT 9

THINGS ONLY GOT
WEIRD BETWEEN
US ONCE THAT I
CAN RECALL.

I DON'T REMEMBER HOW
IT CAME UP, BUT I
WANTED HIM TO EXPLAIN
WHY HE WAS STILL FLYING
JETS WHEN HE COULD
JUST WISH HIMSELF
INTO THE STRATOSPHERE
WITH THAT RING OF HIS.

ATTEMPT 33

"YOU'RE RIGHT," HE SAID.
"BUT I CAN'T HELP
MYSELF. I LOVE IT."

ME BEING ME, OF COURSE I
COULDN'T LEAVE IT ALONE.
I TOLD HIM HE WAS MAKING
A CHOICE TO RISK HIS LIFE
FOR AN ADRENALINE HIGH.

ATTEMPT ???

BUT HE DIDN'T GET MAD.
HE JUST GAVE ME THIS
LOOK...EITHER SAD FOR
ME OR FOR HIMSELF,
I COULDN'T TELL.

"BARRY," HE SAID, "I HOPE
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE TO UNDERSTAND,
BUT TRUST ME ON THIS..."

"...LOVE IS
THE OPPOSITE
OF CHOICE."

KNIGHT TERRORS:
THE FLASH

The **HARD YARDS**

part two

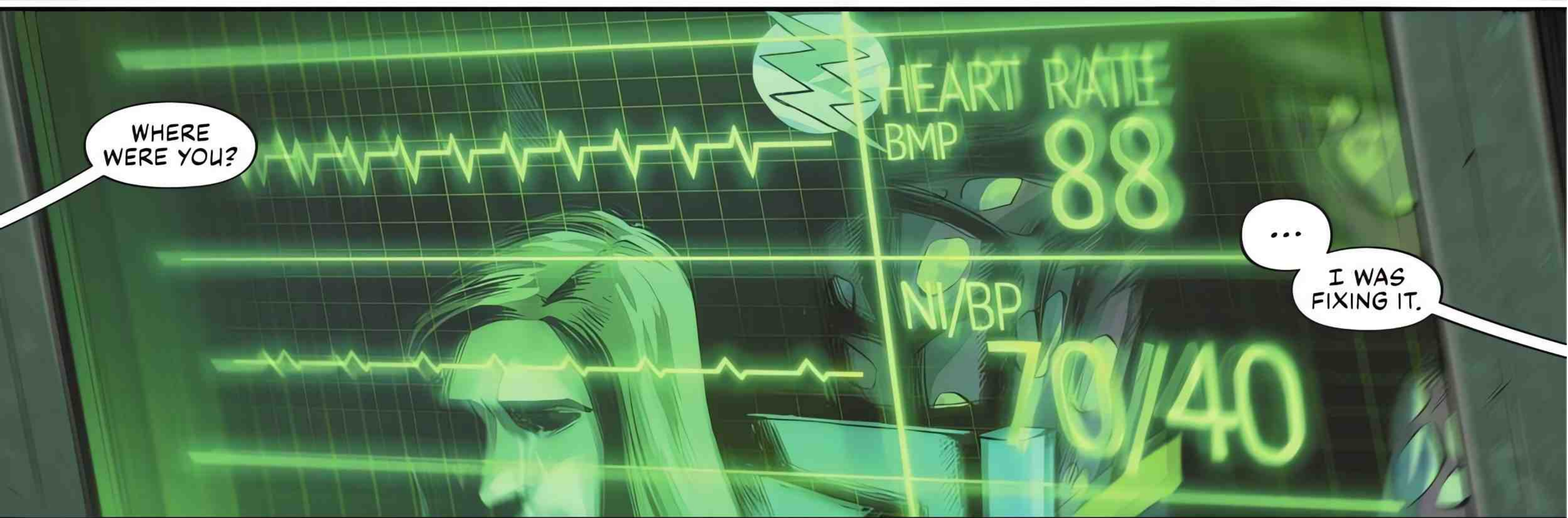


A mysterious and deadly new villain named Insomnia has struck! The entire world has been forced into eternal slumber, including all the heroes and villains, as Insomnia searches their dreams for the Nightmare Stone. Can the heroes survive being trapped within their darkest fears?

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letterer **SIMON BOWLAND**

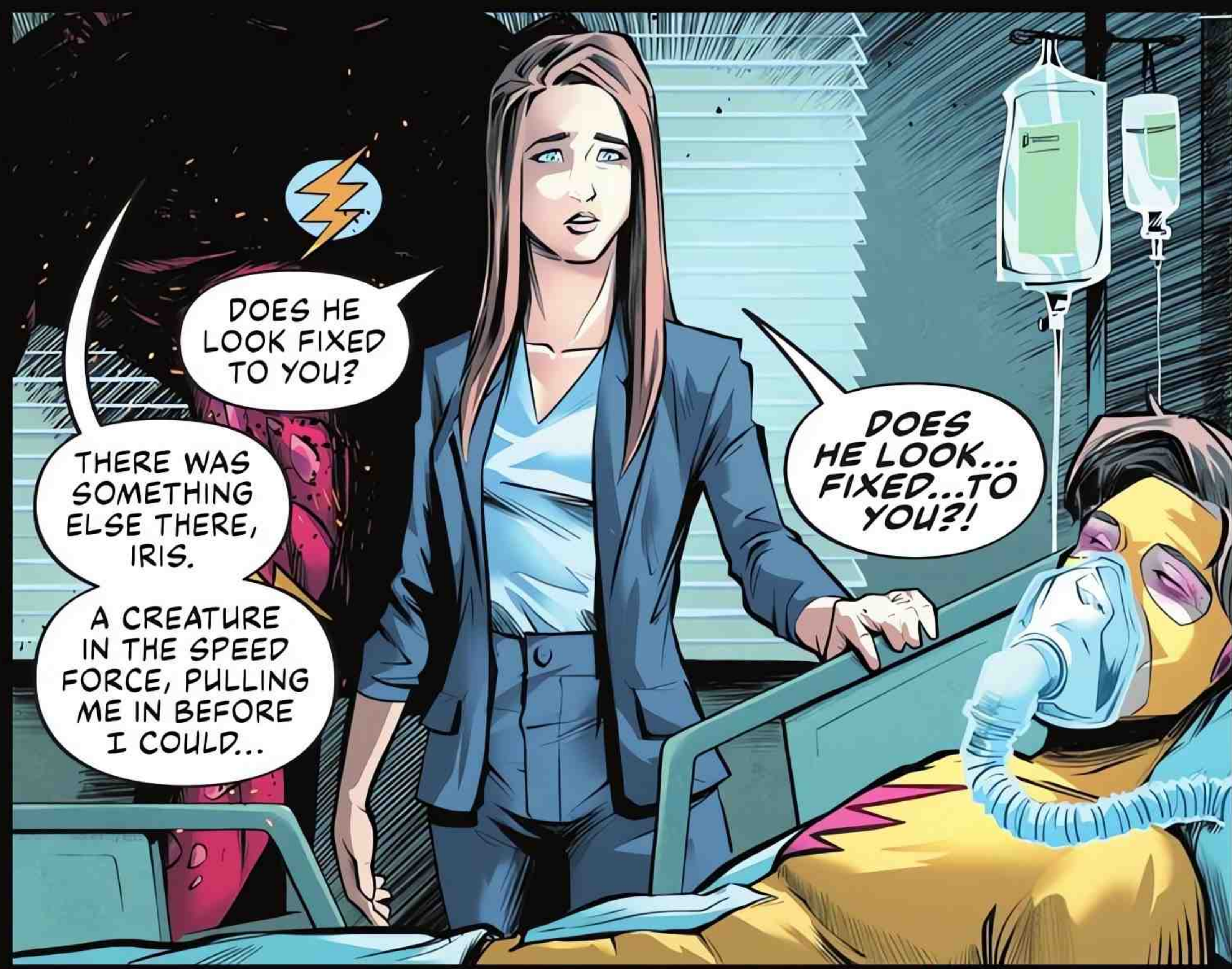
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WHERE WERE YOU?

...
I WAS FIXING IT.

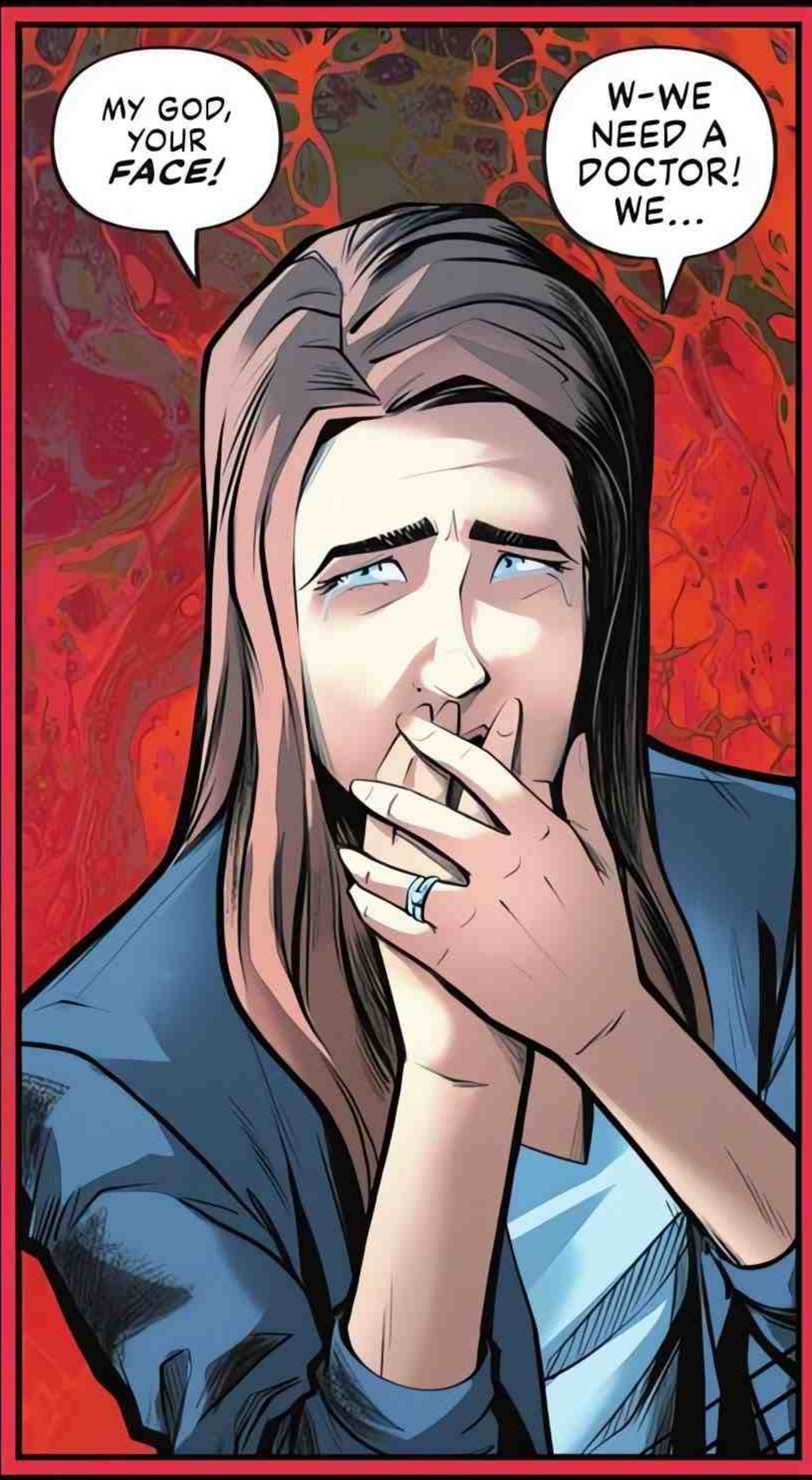


DOES HE LOOK FIXED TO YOU?

THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE THERE, IRIS.

A CREATURE IN THE SPEED FORCE, PULLING ME IN BEFORE I COULD...

DOES HE LOOK... FIXED... TO YOU?!



MY GOD, YOUR FACE!

W-WE NEED A DOCTOR! WE...



NO. NO DOCTORS.

THERE'S FRICTION IN THE SPEED FORCE NOW BECAUSE OF THAT THING-- **RESISTANCE.**

MY BODY HAD TO... **COMPEN-SATE.**

BARRY...**BARRY,** THIS HAS TO STOP. LOOK AT YOURSELF.

STAY. **PLEASE.** BE WITH WALLY BEFORE...





"...BEFORE YOU CAN'T."

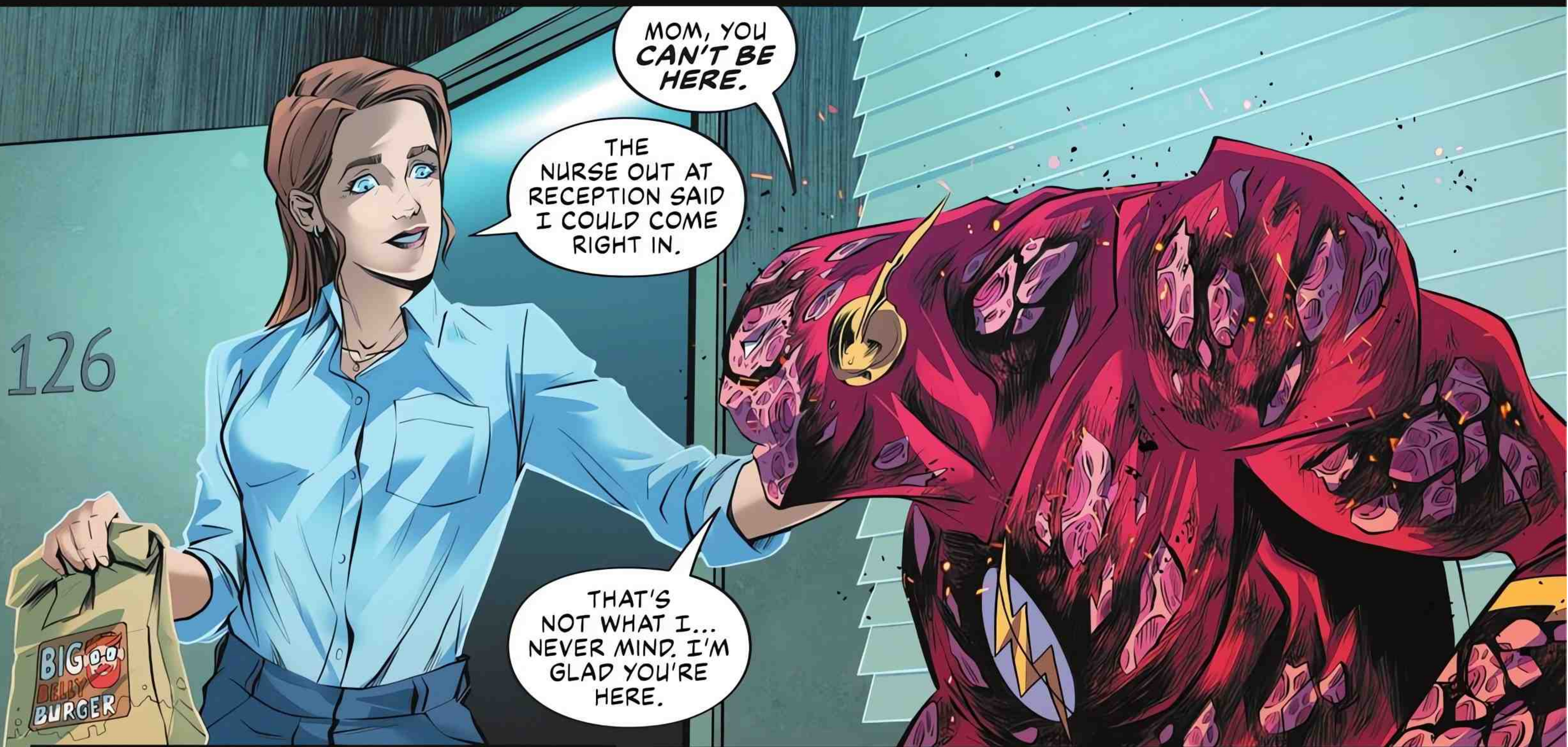
PICKED YOU UP SOME FRIED CHICKEN FROM THAT PLACE YOU LIKE ON THE LOOP.



YOU LOOK *Tired*, honey. When this is over you should take a personal day.

MOM?

Ttt! LOOK AT WALLY. POOR BABY.

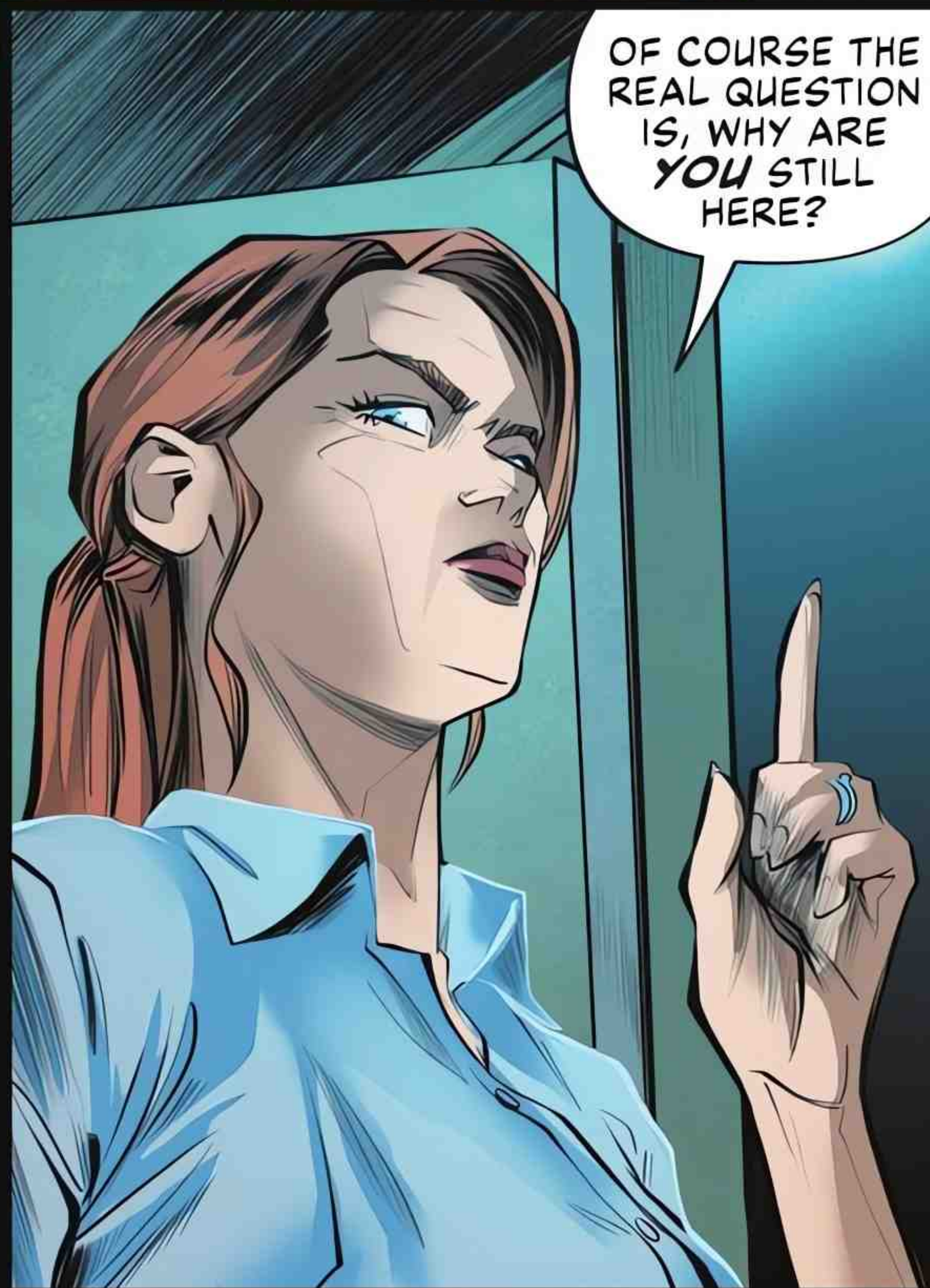


MOM, YOU CAN'T BE HERE.

THE NURSE OUT AT RECEPTION SAID I COULD COME RIGHT IN.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I... NEVER MIND. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

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OF COURSE THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHY ARE *YOU* STILL HERE?



TH-THE DOCTORS SAY THERE'S NOTHING MORE THEY CAN...

Pfft! DOCTORS.

THERE'S A WAY TO PUT THIS RIGHT, BARTHOLOMEW ALLEN, AND YOU'RE GOING TO FIND IT.

I...I TRIED.



TRY
HARDER.
GO
FASTER.



BUT IRIS
WANTS ME TO BE
HERE...FOR **THE**
END.

WHAT END,
BARRY? YOU'RE
THE FLASH.
NOTHING ENDS
UNTIL **YOU**
SAY SO.

DO YOU
HEAR ME,
MISTER?



...

YES,
MA'AM.

GOOD
BOY.
NOW...

...RUN.

HAVEN'T SEEN MOM
IN **FOREVER**, BUT
SHE ALWAYS TELLS
ME WHAT I NEED
TO HEAR.

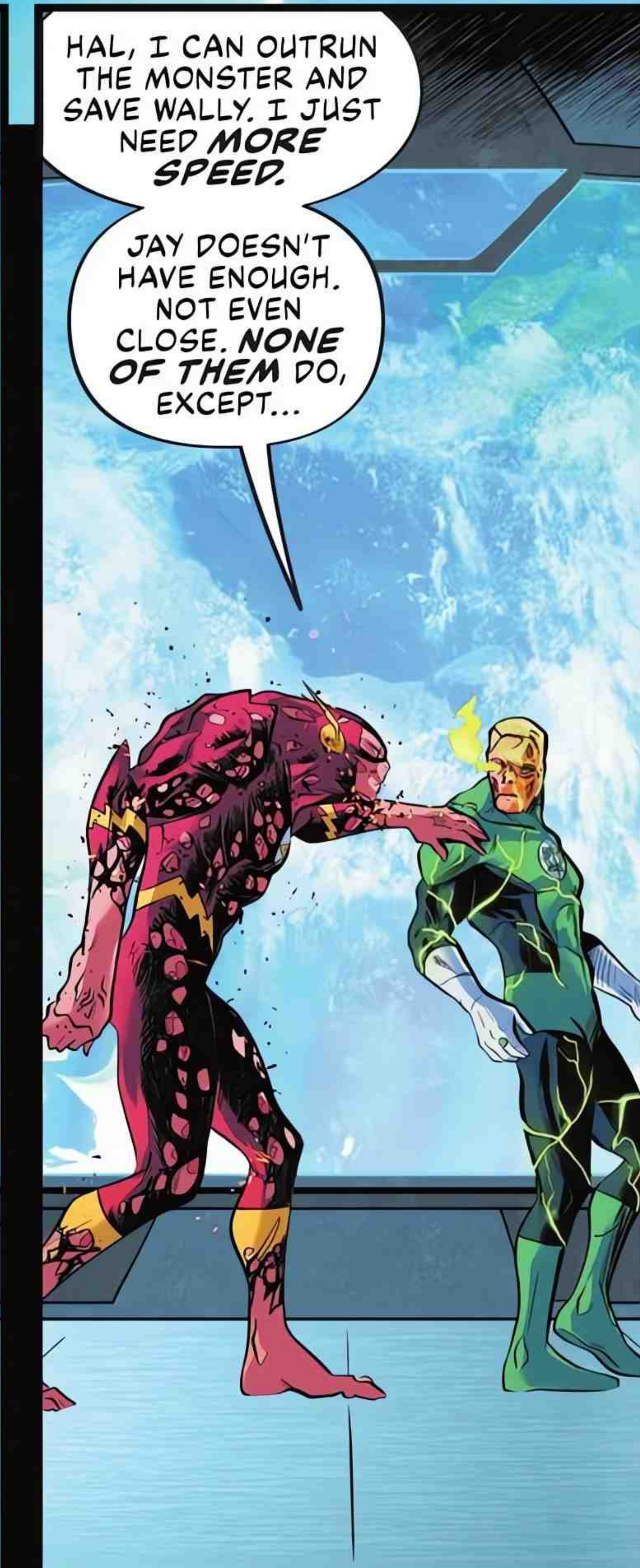
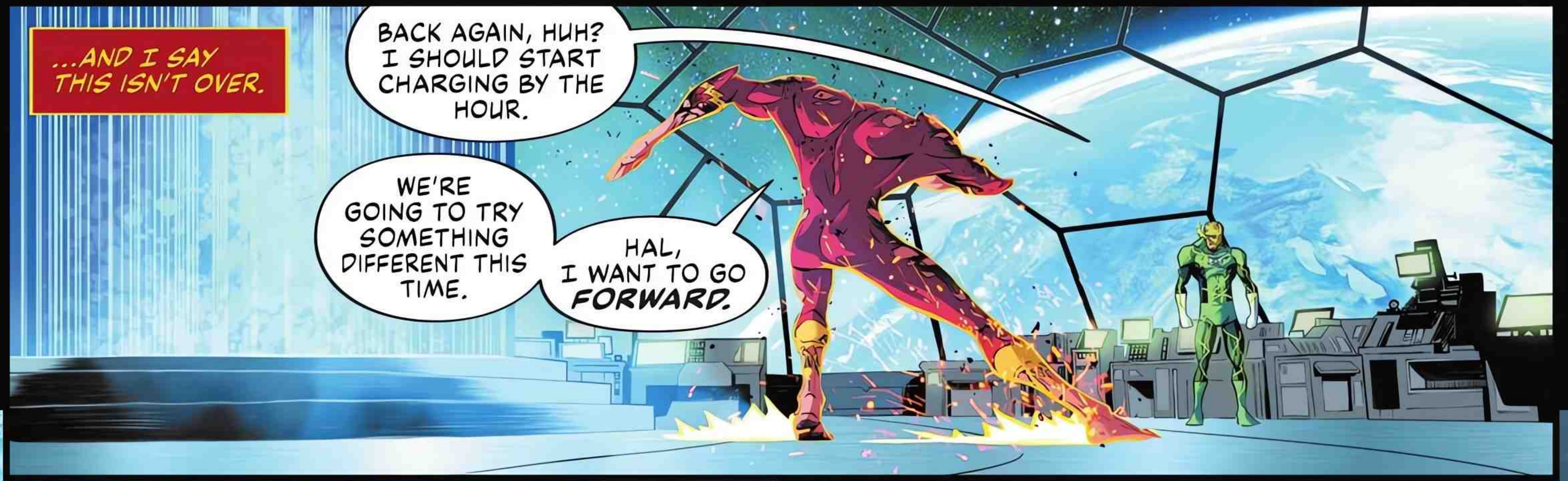


SHE'S RIGHT. IRIS IS THE
LOVE OF MY LIFE, BUT SHE
STILL THINKS **THREE-**
DIMENSIONALLY.

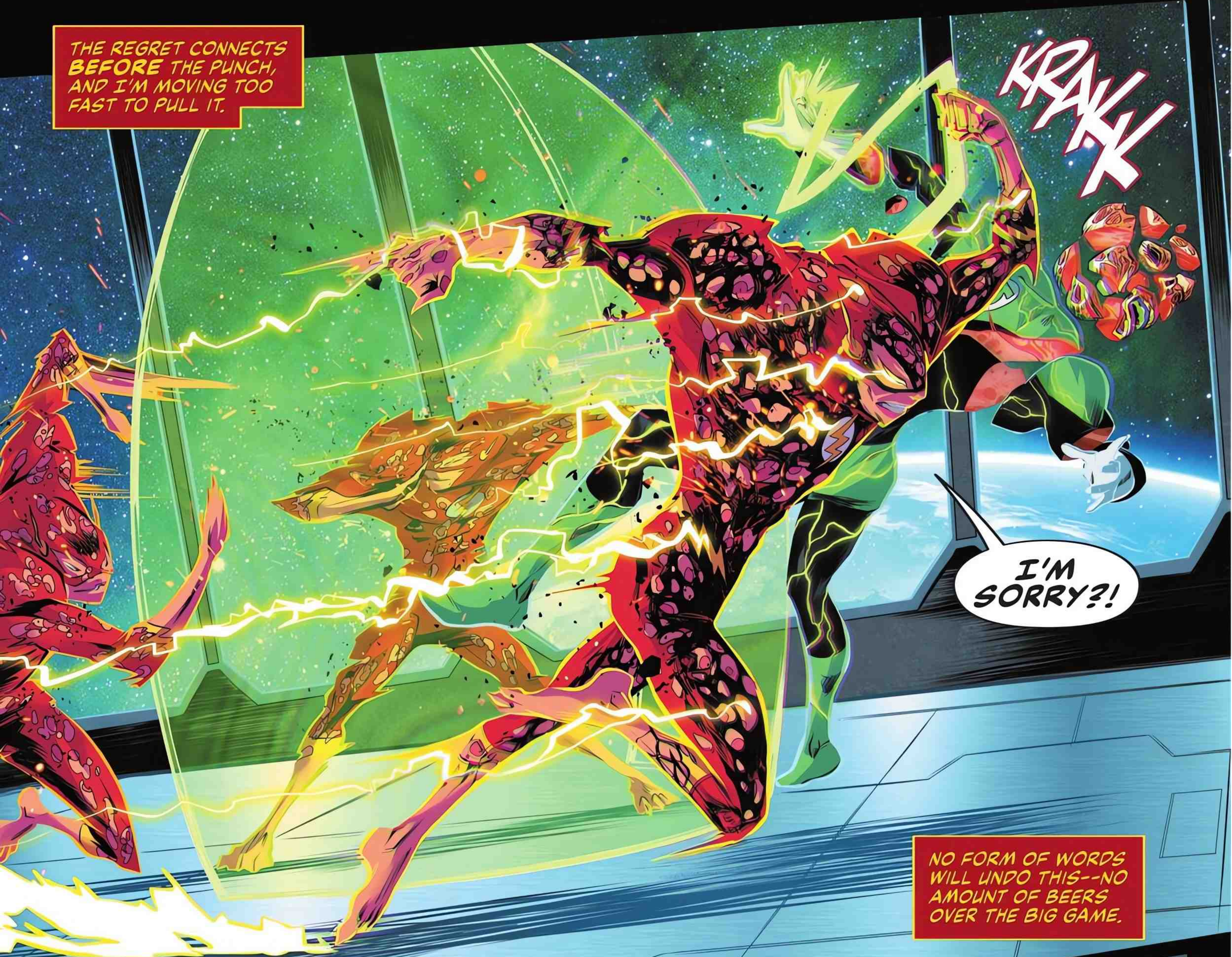
I CAN'T STOP GRODD AS
I AM--NOT WITH THAT
CREATURE SIPHONING MY
SPEED--BUT IF I CAN
BORROW SOMEONE
ELSE'S...



I'M THE FLASH.
THE WORLD TURNS
BENEATH MY FEET...



THE REGRET CONNECTS BEFORE THE PUNCH, AND I'M MOVING TOO FAST TO PULL IT.



I'M SORRY?!

NO FORM OF WORDS WILL UNDO THIS--NO AMOUNT OF BEERS OVER THE BIG GAME.

MY BEST FRIEND. MY ALLY, WHO'S SAVED MY LIFE MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT.

WH-WHAT THE HELL, BARRY?!

AND I SHATTER HIM AS RECKLESSLY AS I SHATTER OUR FRIENDSHIP.



BUT FOR WALLY?

ANYTHING.

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, HAL.

I TOLD YOU, I NEED MORE SPEED...



"...AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME GET IT."

NOW, IT'S A COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT SNART'S COLD GUN WAS COLD TO THE TOUCH...

CENTRAL CITY, THE 25th CENTURY

...BUT--AS ANY PHYSICS TEACHER WILL TELL YOU--SLOWING MOLECULES DOWN IS FAR MORE ENERGY-INTENSIVE THAN SPEEDING THEM UP. IN CONSEQUENCE, THE GUN ACTUALLY RAN **HOTTER** THAN HEAT WAVE'S FLAME-THROWER.

THAT SOUND. IT CAN'T BE.

AH. I SEE YOU FOUND THE SPEAR OF DESTINY. THE VERY WEAPON THAT KILLED THE ORIGINAL KID FLASH.

BUT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY...

...DIDN'T YOU, BARRY?

TAKING DOWN GRODD WITH HIS OWN WEAPON. THERE'S A PLEASING SYMMETRY TO IT, YOU MUST ADMIT.

THEY SAY THE
SPEAR **CORRUPTS**
WHOEVER WIELDS IT,
YOU KNOW.

BUT
LOOKING AT
YOU, I'D SAY
THE DAMAGE
IS PROBABLY
ALREADY
DONE.

**EOBARD THAWNE, THE REVERSE-
FLASH. MY GREATEST ENEMY, AND
THE ONLY SPEEDSTER WITH THE
JUICE I NEED TO SAVE WALLY.**

TINKERING WITH
THE TIMELINE, ARE
WE? I'M AFRAID I
CAN'T ALLOW
THAT.

YOU SEE, I'M A CURATOR
HERE. I'VE TAKEN A SOLEMN
OATH TO PROTECT THE
INTEGRITY OF ALL OUR
EXHIBITS...

...EVEN
FROM YOU.

OH, I'M
NOT HERE FOR
THE SPEAR,
THAWNE...



...I'M HERE
FOR YOUR
SPEED.

THEN
COME AND
GET IT!

**I'M REMINDED
OF SOMETHING
MY DAD USED
TO SAY...**

... "BAD
CHOICES ARE
BETTER THAN
NO CHOICES."



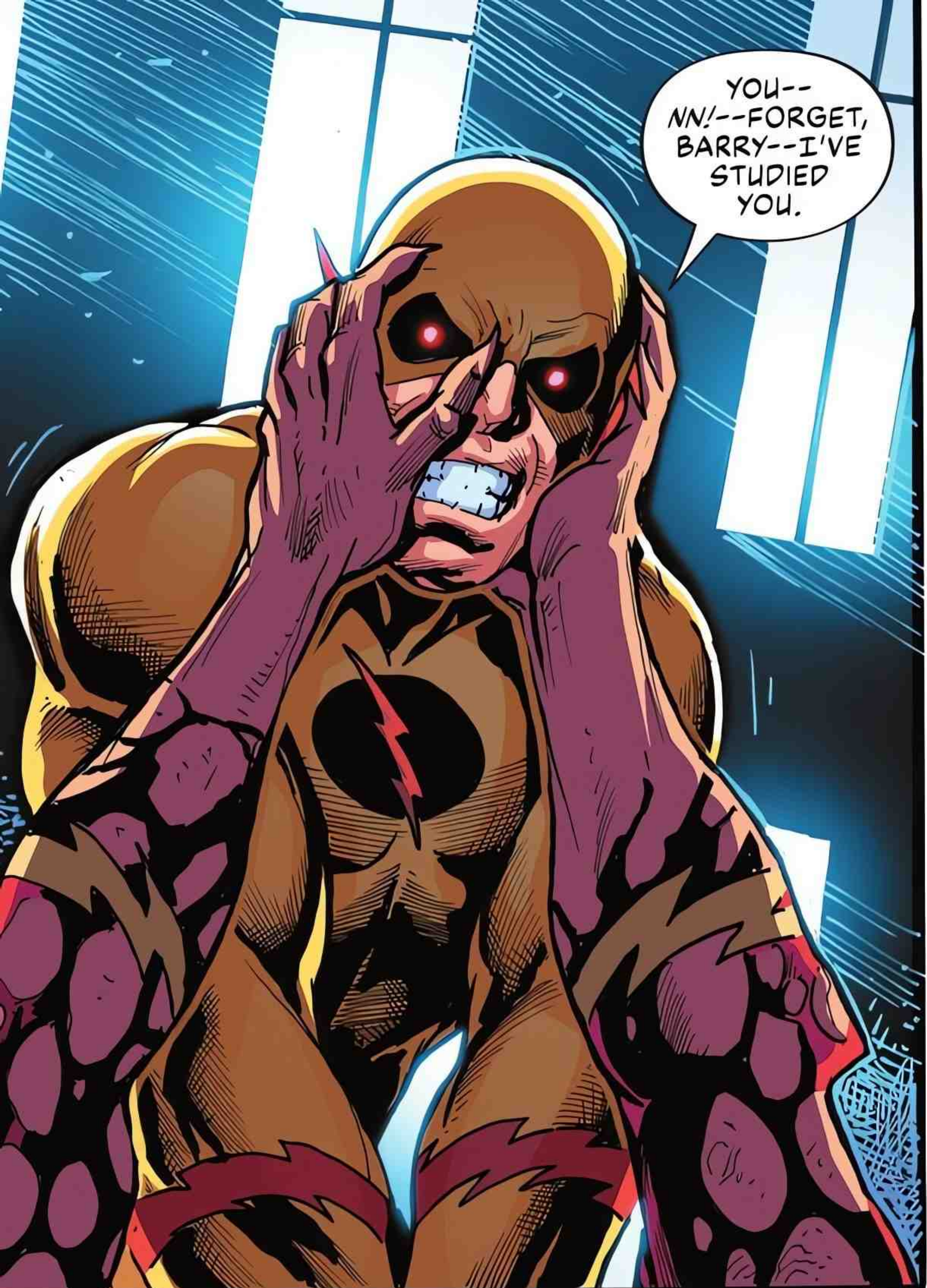
THAWNE'S FASTER
THAN ME. ALWAYS
HAS BEEN.

FAST ENOUGH TO
UNPICK MY LIFE
AT THE SEAMS.

BUT I HAVE AN
ADVANTAGE OVER HIM
THIS TIME...

...A SECRET
WEAPON...

...IT'S
DESPERATION...



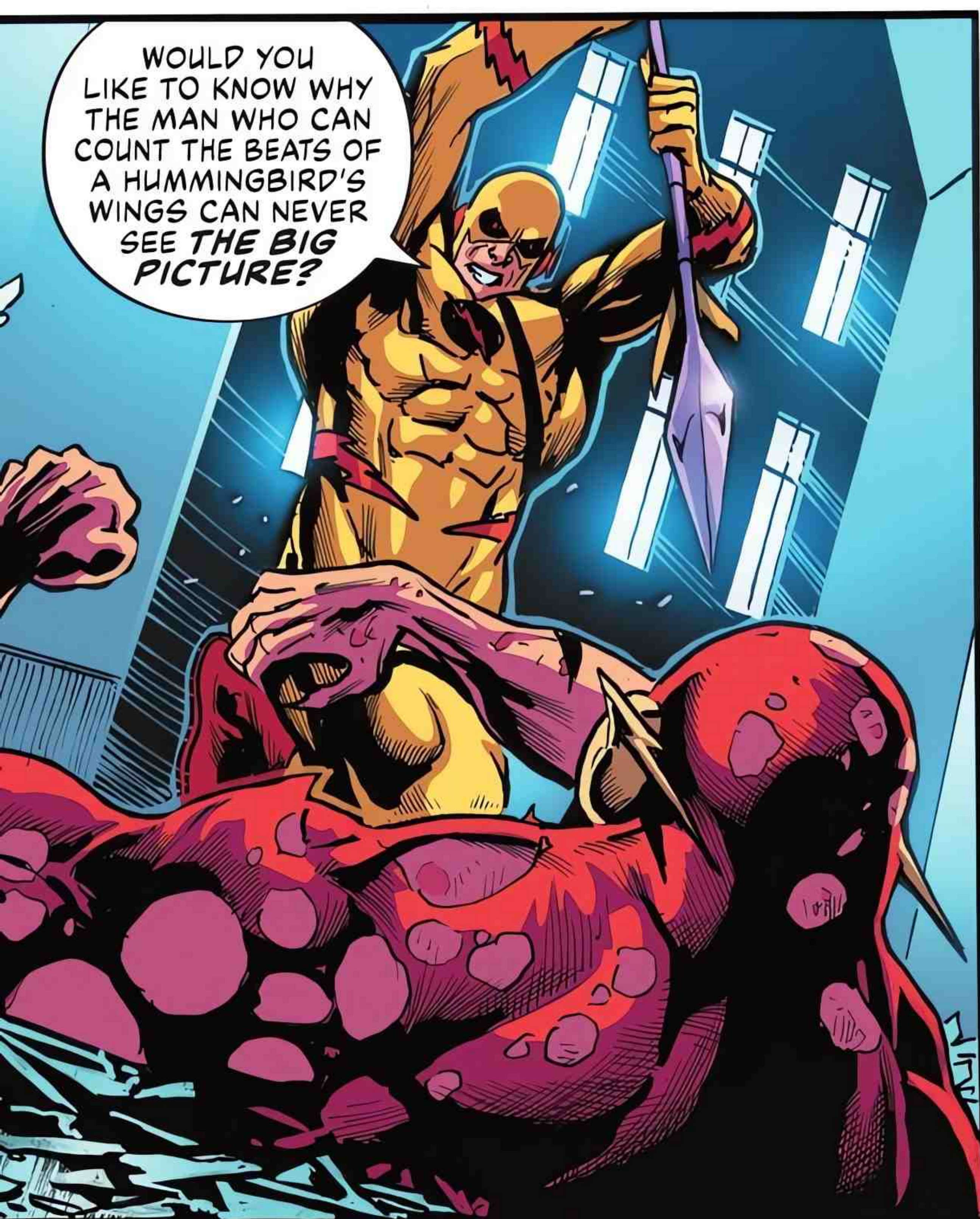
YOU--
NN!--FORGET,
BARRY--I'VE
STUDIED
YOU.



TO ME, YOU'RE
**JUST ANOTHER
DUSTY EXHIBIT**
IN THIS MUSEUM!

I **KNOW**
WHY YOU'RE
BROKEN--WHY
YOU CAN'T
WAKE UP.

DO
YOU?



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO KNOW WHY
THE MAN WHO CAN
COUNT THE BEATS OF
A HUMMINGBIRD'S
WINGS CAN NEVER
SEE **THE BIG
PICTURE?**



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO KNOW WHY
THE FASTEST MAN
ALIVE **MISSSES
EVERY-
THING?**



I'LL TELL
YOU.

IT'S
BEC--



B-BARRY.
BARRY, TAKE
YOUR HAND
OUT OF MY
CHEST.

WE BOTH
KNOW YOU WON'T
LET IT TURN
SOLID, SO LET'S
JUST...TAKE A
BREATH.

LOOK
AT ME,
THAWNE.

YOU THINK
YOU KNOW WHAT
I'M CAPABLE
OF?

VRRRRRR



YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA.

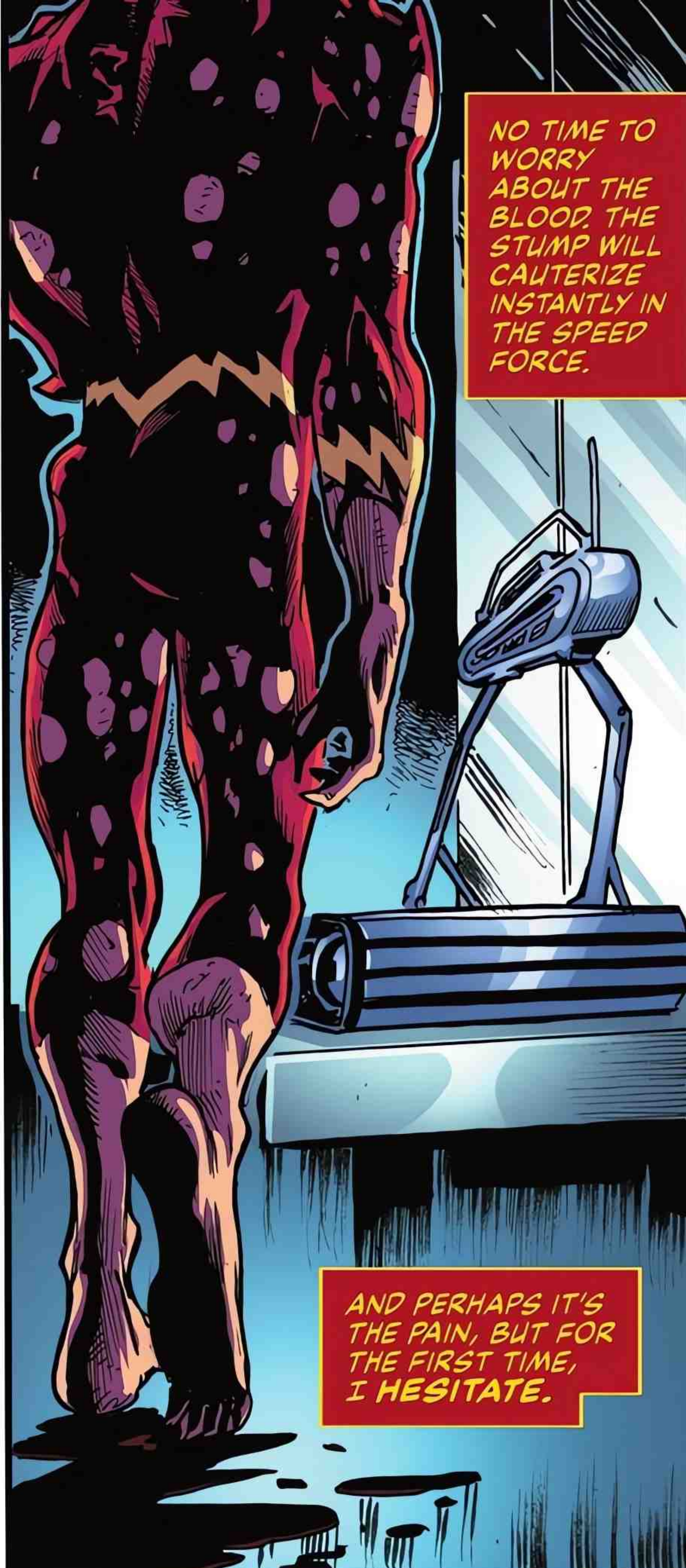
SKLATCH

UTTT--!



AND THEN
I TAKE HIS
SPEED--
EVERY LAST
DROP.

I DON'T
EVEN LEAVE
HIM ENOUGH
TO FINISH
HIS LAST
THOUGHT.



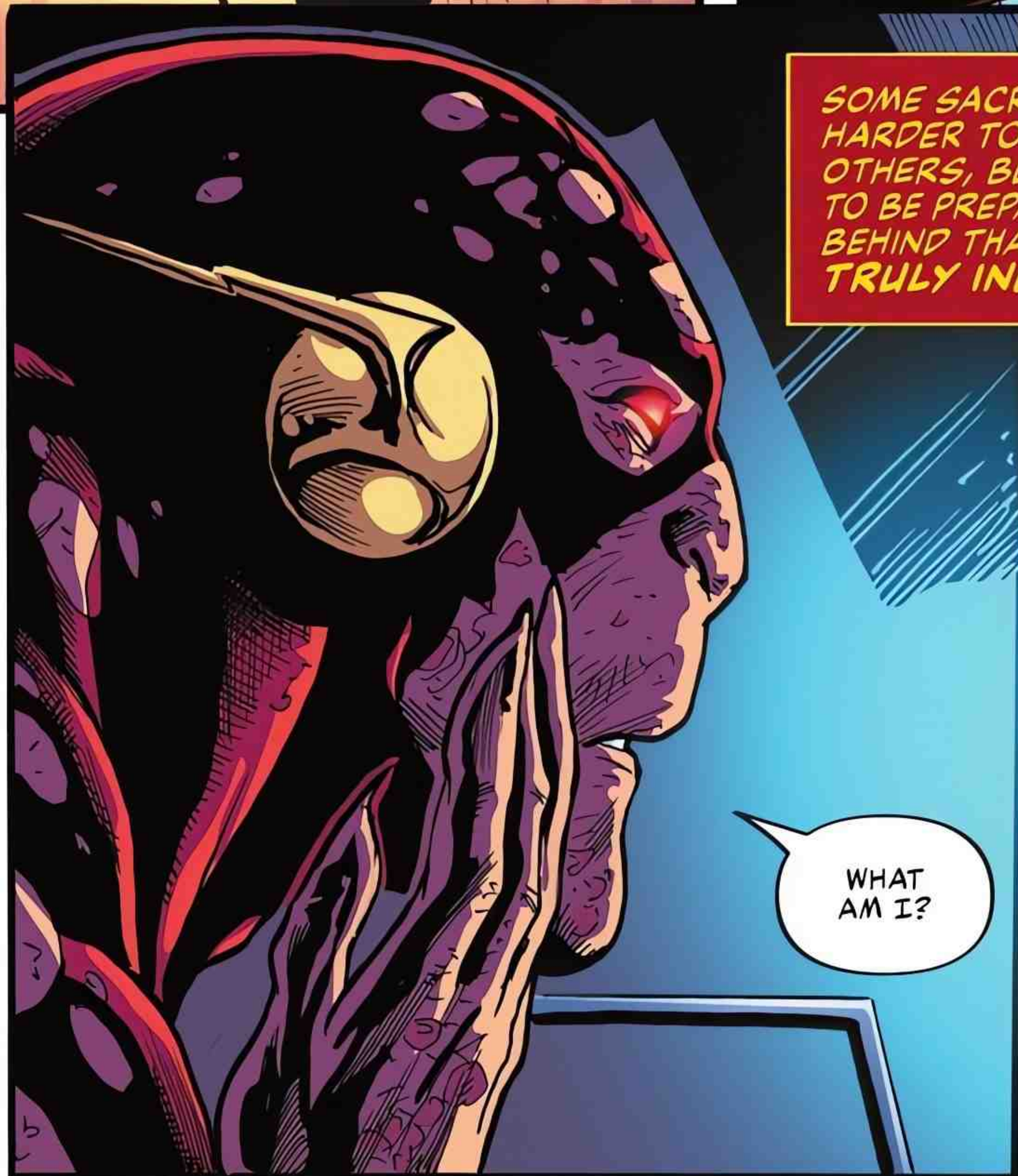
NO TIME TO
WORRY
ABOUT THE
BLOOD. THE
STUMP WILL
CAUTERIZE
INSTANTLY IN
THE SPEED
FORCE.

AND PERHAPS IT'S
THE PAIN, BUT FOR
THE FIRST TIME,
I HESITATE.



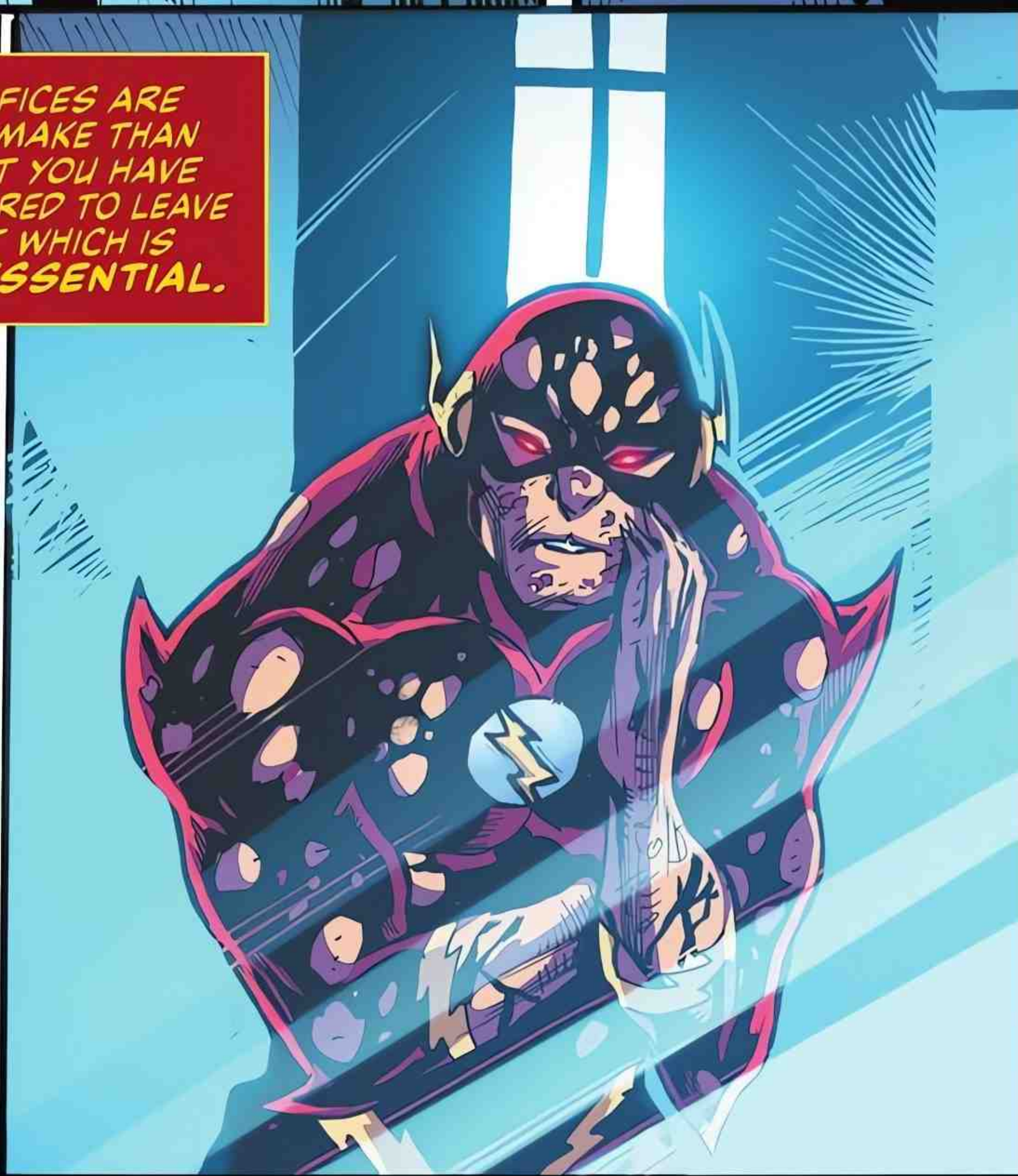
YOU SEE,
ACCELERATION
ALWAYS COMES AT
GREAT COST.

IT'S AN ENGINEERING
PROBLEM. STREAM-
LINING WILL GET YOU
SO FAR, BUT SOONER
OR LATER YOU HAVE
TO LIGHTEN THE
LOAD.



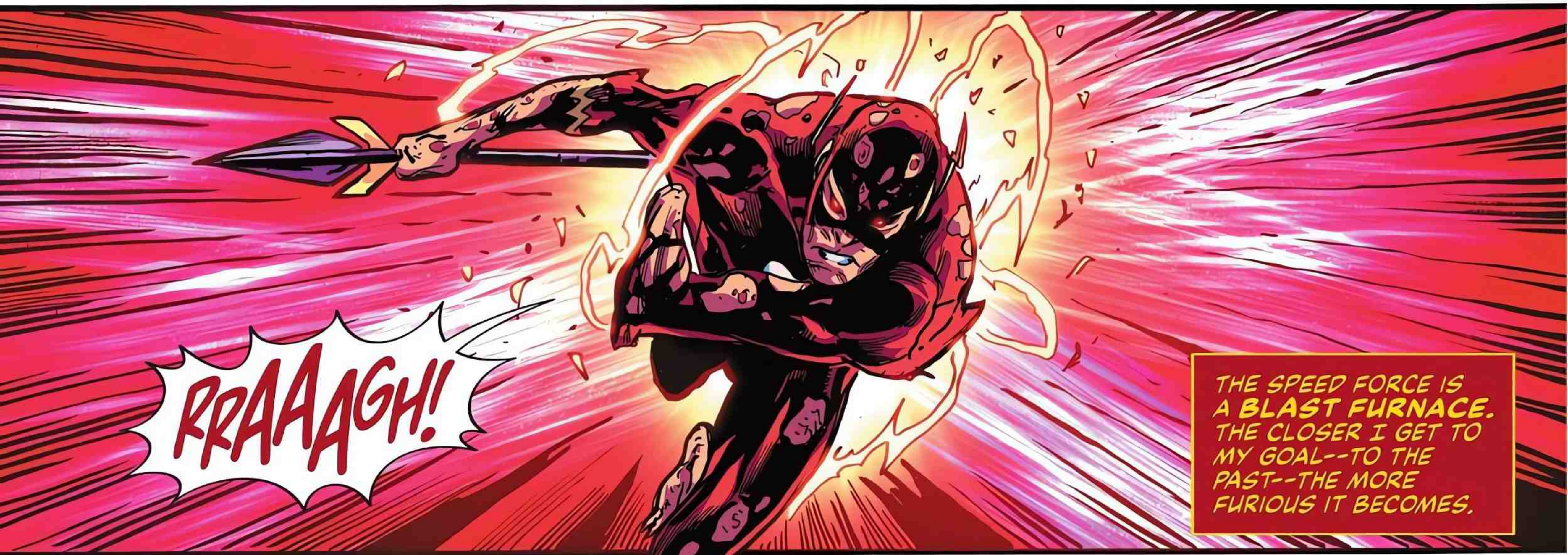
SOME SACRIFICES ARE
HARDER TO MAKE THAN
OTHERS, BUT YOU HAVE
TO BE PREPARED TO LEAVE
BEHIND THAT WHICH IS
TRULY INESSENTIAL.

WHAT
AM I?



AND SO, UNBURDENED...

...I RUN.



RRRAAGH!

THE SPEED FORCE IS A **BLAST FURNACE**. THE CLOSER I GET TO MY GOAL--TO THE PAST--THE MORE FURIOUS IT BECOMES.



IT TAKES ITS USUAL POUND OF FLESH--ITS PRICE OF ENTRY--BUT NOW, WITH THAWNE'S SPEED, THERE'S MORE.

AS MY FACE IS SCORCHED AWAY, SO TOO ARE MY **MEMORIES**--A PLUME OF CINDERS BEHIND ME LIKE GREAT BLACK BUTTERFLIES.



I LOSE STARRO'S NAME...

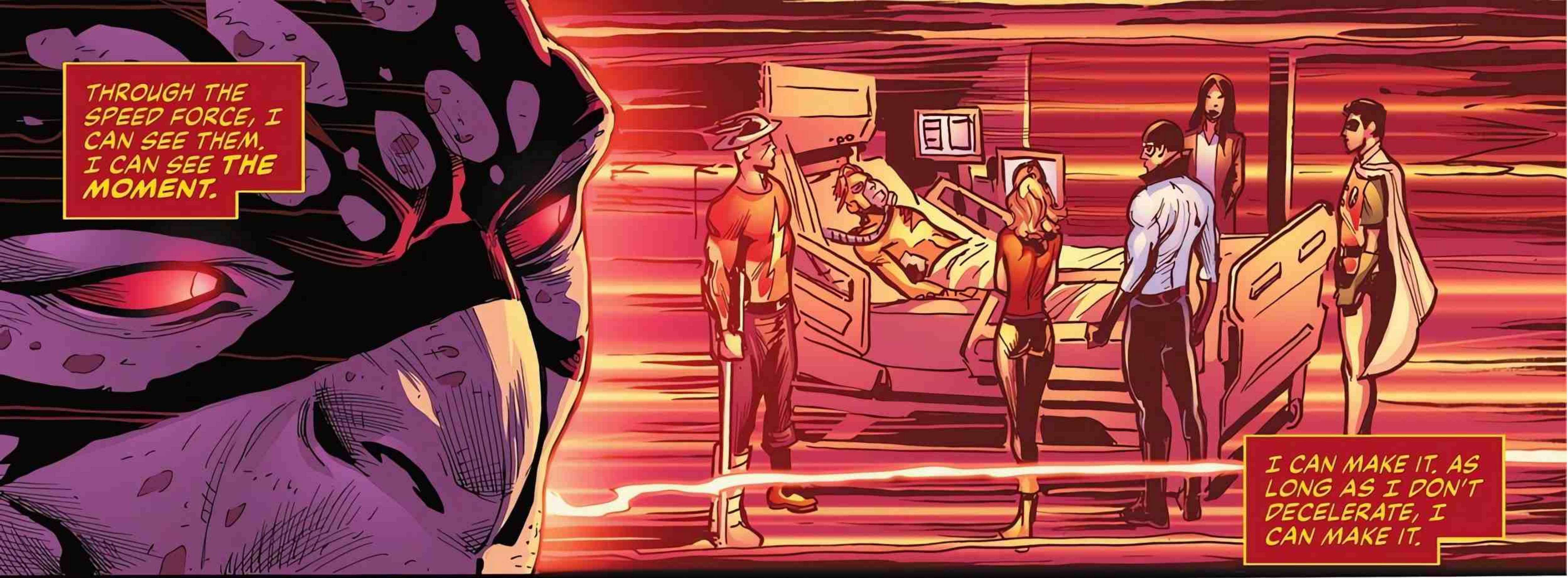
...A FIRST DATE WITH IRIS.

...MY FATHER'S EYES.



NO, BARRY. TEARS ARE JUST MORE **DEAD WEIGHT**. LET THEM FALL.

OUTRUN THE MONSTER. SAVE WALLY.



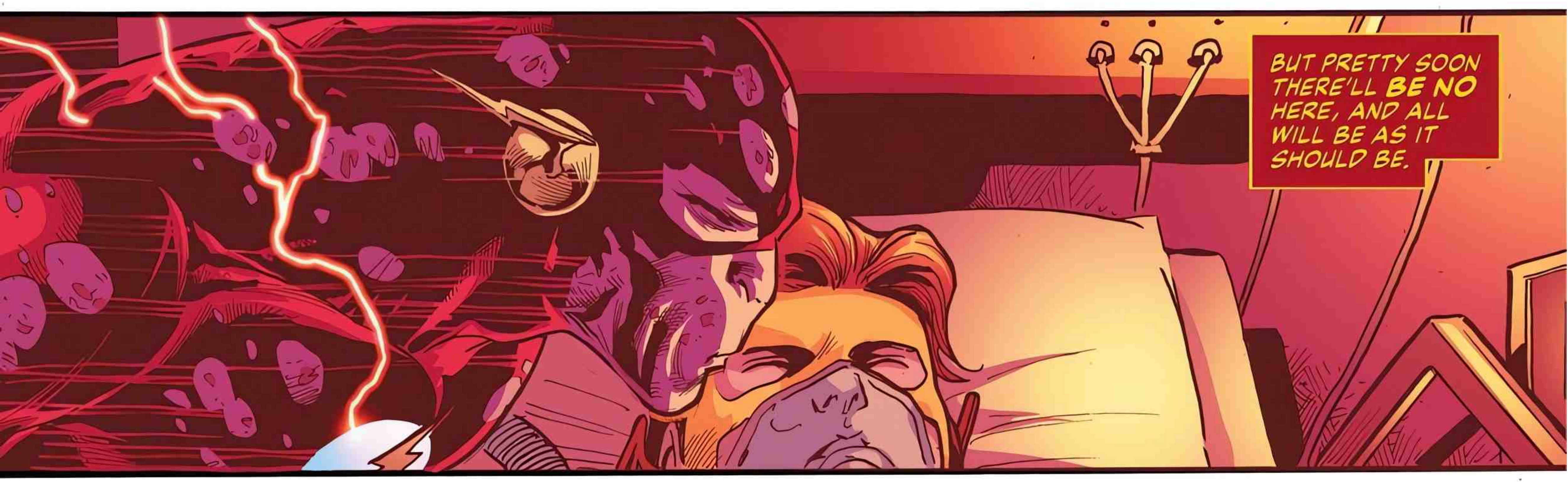
THROUGH THE
SPEED FORCE, I
CAN SEE THEM.
I CAN SEE THE
MOMENT.

I CAN MAKE IT. AS
LONG AS I DON'T
DECELERATE, I
CAN MAKE IT.



I MOVE BETWEEN
THEM LIKE A WRAITH--
EVEN THE SPEEDSTERS
CAN'T SEE ME.

IRIS WAS WRONG.
I WAS HERE WHEN
HE SLIPPED AWAY. I
ALWAYS WILL BE
HERE, INDELIBLE AS
A BRAND.



BUT PRETTY SOON
THERE'LL BE NO
HERE, AND ALL
WILL BE AS IT
SHOULD BE.



NO MISSED
WINDOWS. NO
REGRETS.



BARRY?

EVERYTHING
PERFECT AND
PRISTINE AND
IN ITS PROPER
PLACE.



I CAN DO THIS.
I CAN OUTRUN
THE MONSTER.
STOP GRODD.
SAVE WALLY.



I'M FINALLY
ENOUGH.



I CAN BE
EVERYWHERE AT
ONCE. I CAN WORK
EVERY ANGLE.

I CAN BE A
PARTNER, A COP,
A SCIENTIST, AN
UNCLE, A HERO...



ALL I HAD TO
SURRENDER WAS
MYSELF.



WH--NO! NO,
I'M FASTER THIS
TIME! HOW CAN
YOU...?!

THE MONSTER!



STILL SIPHONING MY SPEED...AND HIS.

A PARASITE, A BLOCKAGE, ONE THOUSAND YEARS LONG.

I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU!

AND NOW IT'S KILLED MY WALLY, ONCE AND FOR ALL.



DIE!

SO, I GIVE MYSELF UTTERLY TO ITS END.



REFLEXIVELY, IT ACCELERATES AS MY SPEAR--MY HARPOON--PIERCES ITS FLANK.

FOR SPITE'S SAKE, I KEEP PACE.



NO, THE SPEED FORCE CAN'T HURT ME, NOT NOW.

THERE'S SIMPLY TOO LITTLE LEFT TO SCORCH.



BUT AS I ROUND THE FRONT OF THE BEAST, A TROUBLING THOUGHT TUGS AT ME.



I'VE BEEN BACK HERE SO MANY TIMES, SO MANY PAST SELVES ACCRETING LIKE TRASH ON A SANDY SHORE...

IT CAN'T BE.

...WHERE DID THEY ALL GO?

BE MERRY, BROTHER! IT'S YOUR TURN TO LEAD!

FUSE WITH US! IT ONLY HURTS FOR A MOMENT!

WE CAN STOP RUNNING ANY TIME WE WANT!

N-NO. NO, I'M NOT LIKE YOU, I...

OF COURSE, A FLESHY PARADOX HAUNTING THE SPEED FORCE-- DRINKING IT DRY.

WHO ELSE COULD IT BE?

I HAVE A LIFE. PEOPLE WHO NEED ME.

STOP! I DON'T WANT THIS!

WE CAN BE EVERYWHERE, BARRY!

HELP EVERYBODY!

NEVER SLEEP! NEVER DISAGREE!

MY NAME IS BARRY ALLEN. I USED TO BE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE...

...NOW I'M JUST A MONSTER IN THE LIGHTNING.



BARRY...
BARRY...



...COME
ON, IT'S
ME...



W-WALLY?

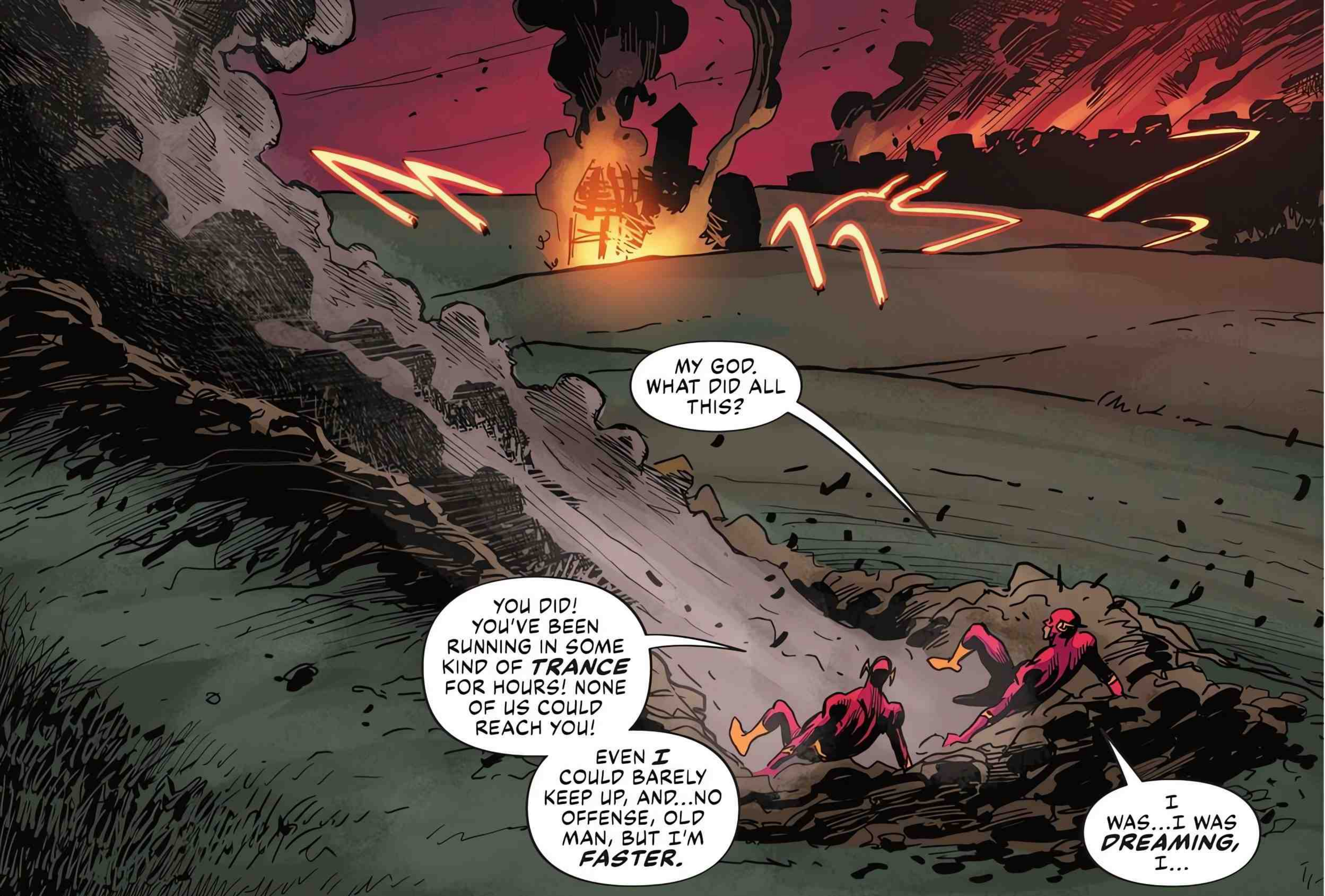
BARRY,
FOR GOD'S
SAKE, SNAP
OUT OF
IT!



UGGHH!

WHUFF!

KRANKOOMMMMM



MY GOD.
WHAT DID ALL
THIS?

YOU DID!
YOU'VE BEEN
RUNNING IN SOME
KIND OF *TRANCE*
FOR HOURS! NONE
OF US COULD
REACH YOU!

EVEN *I*
COULD BARELY
KEEP UP, AND...NO
OFFENSE, OLD
MAN, BUT I'M
FASTER.

I
WAS...I WAS
DREAMING,
I...



I CAN'T LOSE
YOU, KID. NOT
EVER.

DO
YOU UNDER-
STAND?

HEY, WHERE'S
ALL THIS COMING
FROM? WE DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR...



C'MON, SHAKE IT
OFF! THEY NEED
US BACK IN THE
FIGHT!

WH-WHO
NEEDS
US? WHAT
FIGHT?

OH,
BARRY...



"...I *REALLY*
NEED TO BRING YOU
UP TO SPEED."

...TO BE CONTINUED
IN THE PAGES OF...

KNIGHT TERRORS:
NIGHT'S END

AN EERIE MELODY HAUNTS THE GOTHAM CITY STREETS...
CAN THE DARK KNIGHT DISCOVER WHAT
SINISTER FORCE IS PLUCKING THE STRINGS?

"Ram V and Albuquerque
weave a delicate dance
between supernatural
horror and superheroics."

—comicbook.com

BATMAN™

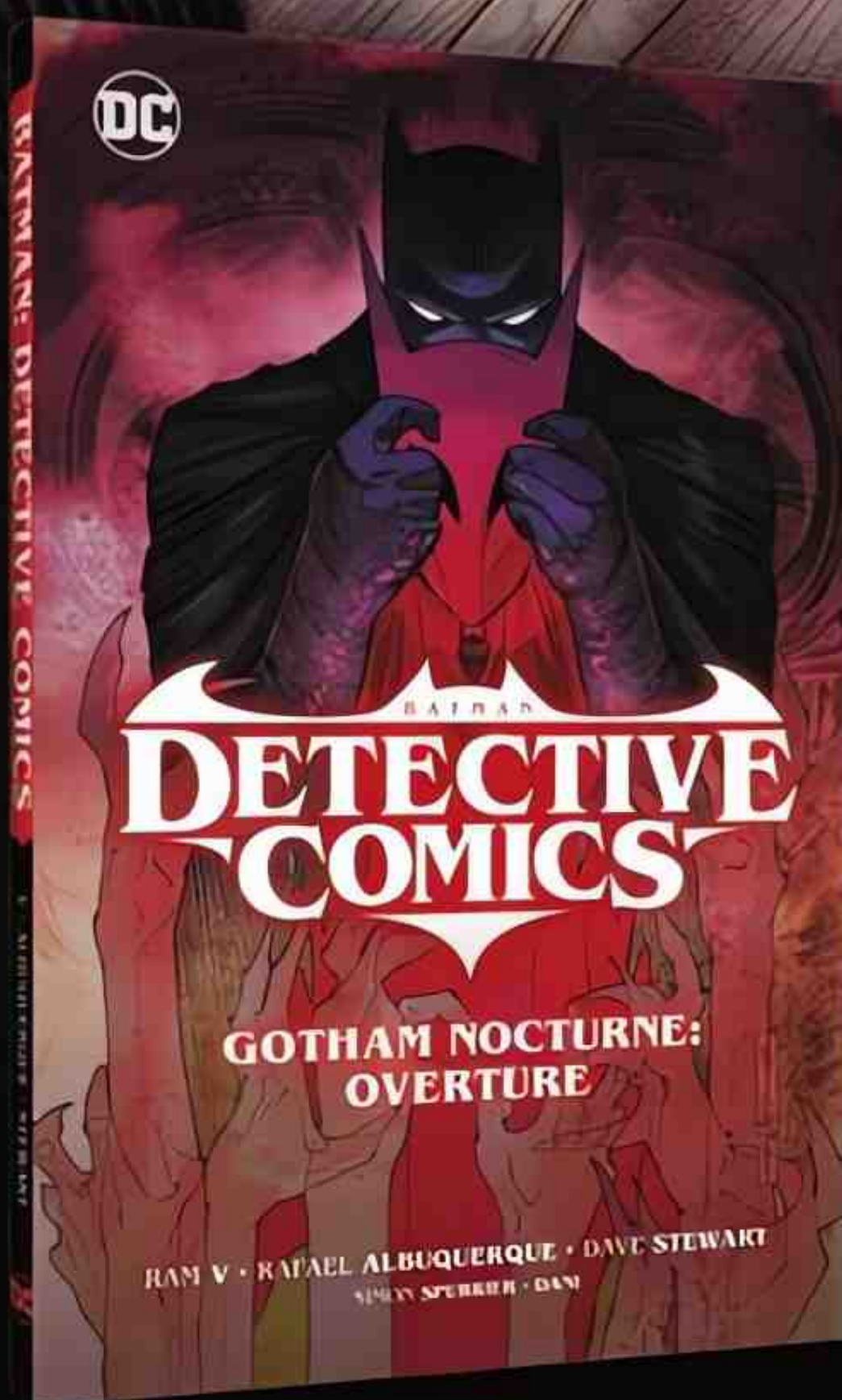
DETECTIVE COMICS™

VOL. 1:

GOTHAM NOCTURNE: OVERTURE

WRITTEN BY
RAM V
WITH SI SPURRIER

ART BY
**RAFAEL
ALBUQUERQUE**
WITH DANI



© & TM DC



AUGUST

GEORGE LOPEZ

RUDY IN

Blue Beetle



What can you tell us about Rudy, your character in the film?

On my last trip to Atlanta, I was in a car and I looked out the window and there was a guy working for the city with about a 10-inch goatee, glasses, long hair, and a city orange vest that had no sleeves, and I thought, man, that's me. I like the idea that we're so quick to judge somebody by the way they look, and Rudy is a bit of a contradiction from the way that he looks.

Why do you think the scarab chose Jaime Reyes as its host?

I think it chose Jaime because it knew that he's a good guy. The scarab chose somebody who would use their powers for good. If you go back into the bug lair and you see Ted Kord's previous Blue Beetle uniforms it was from a guy that had money, was a little bit eccentric, and would create these outfits for himself...but he couldn't fly anywhere.

What can fans expect from Blue Beetle's costume?

You've seen nothing until you've seen the Blue Beetle costume deploy and the pincers retract! It's amazing to see him fly and fight. He operates in a dark blue and black costume, similar to charcoal, which may be the coolest colors of all time. It feels more like a skin than an actual costume. I've seen a lot of bugs in my day, but I've never seen one that looks like that.

How is being a part of Blue Beetle meaningful to you?

As an actor, I've been fortunate enough to have done stand-up for a long time, had my own show named after me, and a number of other incredible things in my career. However, I would have hated to not be involved in this project. If I wasn't cast in this movie it would've been heartbreaking in a sense, but I'm honored to be a part of it. To know that you're specifically chosen to be in this great project, and give life to a guy like Rudy, is beyond an honor.



IN THEATERS AUGUST 18!

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